



## Department of Energy

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April 8, 1999

Mr. Joeseeph P. Rousseau  
Supervisory Hydrologist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Water Resources Division  
INEEL Project Office, MS 1160  
P.O. Box 2230  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403

SUBJECT: The Report Titled *Significant Issues to be Resolved to Support and Defend the Interim Risk Assessment and Additional Work Required to Resolve Those Issues*, Dated October 15, 1998 – (OPE-ER-53-99)

Dear Mr. Rousseau:

Thank you for your report submitted in response to Task 5 of the Independent Technical Review of the Interim Risk Assessment, Radioactive Waste Management Complex, WAG 7-13/14. In the subject report you recommend two programs to provide necessary information to support the remedial investigation. They are a core-drilling program to define hydraulic and geochemical properties of the interbeds down to 240 feet bgs, and a technical audit of the laboratory providing radiochemical analyses.

In response to your recommendation for a coring program, I submit three copies of the attached report titled *Discussion of and Response to U.S. Geological Survey Peer Review: Proposed Wells at the Subsurface Disposal Area*. This report discusses portions of your recommendations and logic, and presents my response and recommended coring program. It has been my objective to develop a coring program which best meets the various needs of WAG 7, including the needs discussed in the subject report. It is my desire to achieve agreement with you that, based on the current conditions and state of knowledge, the proposed coring program is appropriate. The recommendation that a technical audit be performed will be addressed in separate correspondence.

Please review the attached report and comment as appropriate. Thank you for your assistance.

3 Sincerely,

  
Alan T. Jines, P.E.

Waste Area Group 7 Project Manager